



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

1301 North Orchard Street, P.O. Box 83720, Boise, Idaho 83720-0098
Phone: (208) 327-7900 FAX: (208) 327-7866

August 12 1999

DIRK KEMPTHORNE
GOVERNOR

KARL J. DREHER
DIRECTOR

Vivian Ellwein
1460 Houston Rd
Mackay ID 83251

Re: Alder Creek Guidance Document

Dear Mrs. Ellwein,

I reviewed your letter of August 5 requesting additional time to comment on the Alder Creek Guidance document. Your letter suggests that the document is not official since it is not dated, signed or written on IDWR stationary. Actually, the document was attached to an IDWR cover letter containing a date and letterhead (copy attached). As I mentioned in my last letter to you, the document was sent to all Alder Creek water right holders of record as well as the watermaster and the Big Lost Irrigation District (BLRID).

The guidance document merely provides written guidance from the department concerning distribution of water rights on the creek. I do not believe that the document is so 'final' that the department could not consider changes if changes were warranted or if additional direction was necessary. Accordingly, you may submit additional comments at any time. I would be happy to consider further comments but must advise you that our consideration of your comments does not guarantee that they will be incorporated in the document. We do expect the water district to follow the direction provided by the current document unless instructed otherwise by the department.

The third paragraph of your letter suggests that water measurements on Alder Creek should be taken three times per day and averaged in order to be fair and accurate. I believe that this is more than what is either intended or required in the guidance document. Daily readings or measurements of diversions are the accepted norm in Idaho water districts. I agree that additional or even continuous measurements would be more accurate. However, I do not believe that there is sufficient justification to require such additional monitoring. I further believe that the frequency of daily measurements that you suggest is more than what is required for diversions in the rest of the water district as well as other districts in the state.

Respectfully,

Tim Luke
Water Distribution Section

Enclosure

Cc: Doug Rosenkrance, Water District 34 Watermaster